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**Covent Garden Market Tercentenary
Outlook for World Agricultural Trade**

Foreign
Agricultural
Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

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This week's cover:

U.S. apples and pears were gaily displayed in an antique barrow at the 300th anniversary celebration of London's Covent Garden Market—England's largest for domestic and imported fruits, vegetables, and flowers. For an account of the rise and fall of the market see story beginning page 12.

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Crucial Times Ahead

By CLARENCE D. PALMBY

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

To the agricultural sector, trade is important and exports are critical. Imports give the American farmer a wider range of goods than would be available if he had only domestic ones to choose from, and they can help hold down his costs. It is not an accident that Congress has put many farm inputs—such as machinery—on the free list.

The American farmer sends overseas the produce of one of every four cropland acres. This is a major concern to an agricultural plant that grosses \$55 billion a year. It is of major concern in a time when farm income is under pressure and the techniques and management of farming are undergoing great change.

A continuation of market growth will require that we as a Nation be extremely vigilant and resourceful in creating demand and pursuing access to important world markets.

Critical period here and abroad

We are embarked on a critical period in trade policy. As evidence of this, the House Ways and Means Committee has been engaged in extensive hearings on all aspects of our trade. The President's Commission on International Trade and Investment began last week an intensive study of our international trade—both industrial and agricultural. A major trade bill, sponsored by the Administration, is pending in Congress.

Across the Atlantic, far-reaching decisions are about to be made with reference to expansion of the European Community. And around the world, there is conflict between the desire to trade and the impulse to protect.

The real issue at stake in this decade of the 1970's is this: What kind of trading world do we want this to be? Do we want goods to be produced where this can be done most efficiently? Do we want these products to be traded freely in a commercial market—with the rising standards of living that result? On our part, the answer is clearly yes.

Achieving this result calls for a re-examination of all of the institutions that have been created to govern world trade. The most important of these is the GATT—The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. For the last quarter of a century, the United States has relied almost entirely on this international body to guide commercial world trade in agriculture, and there is increasing criticism of this reliance.

The problem does not necessarily lie with the Agreement itself. The GATT's provisions have sometimes been abused. And these abuses could perhaps have been arrested had use been made of the provisions for correcting and disciplining these practices. But for a variety of reasons these provisions have not been used.

More basic perhaps is the increasing evidence that the traditional negotiating process of the GATT is simply inadequate where agriculture is concerned. This became apparent during

Highlights of remarks made at a meeting of the Sugar Club, New York City.

or World Agricultural Trade

the Kennedy Round negotiations, when not even the dramatic offer of across-the-board 50-percent tariff reductions in both industry and agriculture enabled us to deal with the trading problems of U.S. agriculture.

The EC's variable levy system remained intact. Its support system was not changed. Feed grains, wheat, poultry, and rice are still not covered by specific GATT concessions. The EC remains free to increase its duties at will, and does so. True, the International Grains Arrangement was negotiated, but it soon proved unworkable in the face of world changes in wheat supplies and prices.

If the GATT is to realize its original promise to the American farmer these critical flaws must be mended. Reciprocity must be achieved. We are determined to achieve the market access that we are entitled to—and have paid for—under the GATT. We know this instrument can work for us, and move us toward the kind of commercial market we are seeking, if we have the will to make it work.

One U.S. export product that has benefited greatly from free trade and GATT concessions is soybeans—and the effect of this is most evident in the growth of soybean exports. Soybeans and meal have GATT-guaranteed duty-free access to the European Community and other important markets. The concession with the EC was negotiated in 1961. We have good access to several other countries, including Japan and the United Kingdom. Thus any competitive advantage in soybean products has been reflected immediately in use.

Fortunately, the growth in soybean acreage and production has taken up a good deal of the income slack as U.S. grain and cotton farmers have restricted production under Federal programs and the pressures on their markets. With the recent declines in grains and cotton exports, soybeans have helped to make up the difference. And this is important, because U.S. agriculture *must* export.

It is worth noting that U.S. imports of agricultural products continue to rise. In this fiscal year, it is estimated that agricultural imports will total \$5.4 billion—almost equal to our total commercial exports of farm products. In the early 1960's, our agricultural imports were below \$4 billion, but they have risen steadily. And the fact is that, if we are going to continue importing, we must export.

Export opportunity in cattle feed

One of the most tantalizing export opportunities lies in the potential for expanded livestock production abroad. Much of our soybean exports go into livestock feeding, and if there were fewer restrictions on our feed grains, these commodities too could move into other countries at an expanding rate. U.S. producers and foreign consumers would both benefit.

The spectacular growth has been in the feeding of grain to beef cattle in this country. Between 1960 and 1969, the amount of grain fed to cattle on feed climbed from 12 million metric tons to 29 million tons (from 470 million bushels of corn or corn equivalent to 1,140 million). The liveweight production from cattle on feed jumped 93 percent in the one decade.

This increase in production enabled beef producers to pro-

vide a growing U.S. population with a steadily increasing per capita supply. Per capita consumption of beef and veal rose from 91.1 pounds in 1960 to 114.1 pounds in 1969—a gain of one-fourth. This compares with a gain of 9 pounds in the European Community, where per capita consumption of beef and veal was only 54 pounds at the end of the 1960's.

The point of this is the contrast between a country that has favorable conditions for the use of grains—the United States—and an area where the situation for grain use is unfavorable—the European Community. Both here and across the Atlantic, the average citizen looks at beef as a measure of good living. Both areas are striving to increase beef production. Yet, in the European Community, per capita consumption of beef is less than half of what it is in the United States.

Possibility—a record year

I am cautiously optimistic as to the export outlook for next year. For 2 consecutive years, our farm exports were in a serious decline—totaling a loss of over a billion dollars in 2 years. But I feel that we may have turned the corner upward—beginning with this year's good record.

In the 1970 fiscal year, which is about to end, we will record total agricultural exports of about \$6.5 billion—compared with \$5.7 billion last year. I believe that we could see another increase of 10 percent in the next fiscal year, *provided several things happen.*

Such a continued rise would be contingent on:

First, grain shipments to Europe that are substantially larger than those of the past year. I view this as a possibility because of reports of less favorable weather in much of Europe in recent months.

Second, we would need a further increase in exports of U.S. soybeans and soybean products, globally. This would be a continuation of the trend of recent years. And I would hope that these exports would be at a somewhat higher price than has prevailed in the past season.

Third, a 10-percent rise in farm exports this next year would require a substantial increase in total exports of agricultural commodities to Japan. It appears assured now that we will top a billion dollars of farm exports to Japan in the current fiscal year—a new all-time high to any country. There is every reason to work for a continuation of this growth.

Finally, a continued rise in our overall farm exports is contingent on a good 1970 cotton crop in the United States. For 4 straight years, we have had short cotton crops—due to a combination of poor growing conditions and a restrictive program. This brought a shortage of certain export qualities—a situation we hope to see corrected with the 1970 crop.

If these things happen, we might very well set a new record for U.S. farm exports in the coming fiscal year. The record is \$6.8 billion in 1967.

We must, as I have said, do a better job of obtaining market access. Without access, we cannot export. Unless we export, we cannot import. We are in a time when some difficult and far-reaching decisions will have to be made—by the United States and by our trading partners.

Developments in Canadian Grain Trade

The following stories are based on dispatches from the Office of the U.S. Agricultural Attaché, Ottawa.

Heavy Pacific Grain Shipments

According to the office of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) in Vancouver, April shipments of Prairie grain through Canada's west coast ports reached the second highest level on record. The total of 27,696,000 bushels loaded into ocean-going vessels during that month was well above average monthly handlings at west coast terminals and close to the record 28,350,000 bushels cleared in March 1966. Last month's heavy loadings were achieved despite the relatively large amounts of tough and damp grain that arrived from Prairie points for processing.

The heavy April movement is part of the buildup in Canada's grain export program, according to the CWB. Shipments through west coast ports are expected to continue at a high level during the remainder of the present crop year to meet export commitments.

The CWB reported that wheat exports, totaling 18,009,000 bushels, accounted for more than half of the April grain shipments from Pacific ports. Other grain handled during the month included barley, 5,981,000 bushels; rapeseed, 2,106,000 bushels; flaxseed, 792,000 bushels; and rye, 385,400 bushels. (Rapeseed and flaxseed are classified as grains in Canada.)

Most of the grain handled at west coast ports is sent to markets in Asia. The CWB reports that, of the April shipments, 9,010,000 bushels of wheat went to Mainland China; 5,289,000 bushels of wheat and 74,900 bushels of barley to Japan; and 1,773,000 bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union. Other known destinations included Poland (933,000 bushels of barley), Hong Kong, and South Korea.

Feed Freight Assistance Rates

The rates of assistance under Canada's Feed Freight Assistance Program will be maintained at present levels for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1971, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture has announced.

In making the announcement at this time, the government wished to remove possible fear that the continuing heavy demand for feedgrains would mean a reduction in assistance rates and to assure Canada's livestock feeders of a continuation of the present rates to help them make production plans for the year ahead. The present rates, which were established in November 1969, provide a generally equalized transportation cost to feeding areas in eastern Canada and in British Columbia.

The Minister pointed out that it is difficult to make accurate forecasts of feedgrain needs in eastern Canada and British Columbia. Any changes in local feedgrain production, market relationships, or feeder intentions could appreciably alter present demand protections.

Shipments under the program in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1970, exceeded 3 million tons and may range be-

tween 3.0 million and 3.6 million tons in the 1970-71 fiscal year. (Canada's estimates of both hog and poultry production are up appreciably over a year ago.)

No Major Changes in Grain Quotas

No major changes will be made in the Canadian grain quota system announced for 1970-71, according to the Canadian Government. Minor adjustments will be made in the 1970-71 wheat quota, however, to provide for a quota on land seeded to such crops as sugarbeets, potatoes, and other vegetables; and the barley quota has been increased.

Farmers will have to make planning decisions on the basis of a quota of 8 bushels of wheat per acre of summerfallow, with the possibility of an upward adjustment to 9 bushels if there is less than a 10-million-acre increase in summerfallow this year. Income for all farmers will be proportional not to production but to the sales opportunities that the farmers create by increasing the quota basis. Farmers turning their land to summerfallow will benefit from reduced costs.

Calculations by the government, based on this year's net initial price to the producer of an average of Can\$1.20¹ per bushel for wheat, show that a farmer would receive \$9.60 per acre for the wheat sales revenue for each acre of summerfallow or new perennial forage. This is in addition to the \$6.00 or \$10.00 per acre qualifying under the Operation Lift program (the wheat stock reduction program). Therefore, it is claimed that a farmer's revenue can be increased by \$15.60 for each extra acre taken out of wheat production and put into summerfallow during the 1970-71 crop year.

The government's wheat acreage reduction program also has the objective of keeping land out of rapeseed, barley, or other crops to reduce surpluses of these crops. The government feels that, without surpluses, farmers will have a better market for nonwheat crops and better income as a result.

No final decision has been made on the quota system for 1971-72. The production outlook for that crop year depends greatly on the success of Operation Lift this year. The government assured producers that participation in the reduction program this year will be recognized in any special provisions required next year.

Special Quota Delivery Privileges

The Canadian Government recently announced special quota delivery privileges, including restored gisting privileges, for Canadian Wheat Board permit book holders for the 1970-71 crop year. In addition to the delivery quota policy of the wheat inventory reduction program, the Wheat Board has indicated that the following special provision applies:

All permit book holders may deliver up to 50 bushels of wheat to a grist mill to make flour for family use. This wheat will not be delivered for Board account against delivery quotas. Delivery privileges for malting barley, in

¹ Can\$1 = 92.5 U.S. cents.

turn, will remain the same as for the current year, whereby a farmer may be given the privilege of delivering one carload on an over-quota basis.

Permit holders will again be able to deliver grain to defray the cost of purchasing pedigreed seed for planting. In addition, the government indicated that provision will be made for producers to have one alternate delivery point within the same province.

Canada's Wheat Exports Down

Latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures indicate that Canada's wheat and flour exports were running about 12 per-

cent below last year—182.4 million bushels during the first 8 months of the current crop year (Aug.-July) compared with 207 million bushels during the same period last year. The 1969-70 shipments were 28 percent below the yearly 1958-68 average of 254 million bushels for this 8-month period.

The balance of 1,188.7 million bushels remaining for export and carryover on April 1, 1970, was up 25 percent from the 950.7 million bushels on the same date last year.

The export goal most often mentioned this year by grain officials is 375 million bushels, compared with the 305 million bushels reported for last year. With the recent pickup in long-term-credit low-interest sales, it is estimated that despite the August-March lag, exports will reach the goal this year.

India's First National Food Congress Held in New Delhi

Last month in New Delhi, India held its first National Food Congress, organized jointly by the Indian Freedom from Hunger Campaign Society and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Congress was planned as a preview for the Second World Food Congress to be held at the Hague this month. Its more urgent purpose, however, was to focus attention on the progress and problems of food and agriculture in India.

Delegates numbering some 400 represented the Central and State Governments, farmers, commercial interests, and youth groups and included eminent personalities and leaders of public opinion.

The most significant achievements of the Congress, according to the Union Minister of State for Food and Agriculture Annasaheb Shinde, were the awareness it created regarding the importance of agriculture and the dialogue it inspired among economists, scientists, farmers, and administrators on the problems of agricultural development.

In her speech inaugurating the Congress, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi warned against any sense of complacency arising from recent successes on India's farms and stated that the food problem facing the country is still "gigantic."

Specific problems approached

The Congress was divided into five panels to consider in detail food needs and nutrition; food production problems and programs; distribution, marketing, and processing; people's participation and public opinion; and research support, education, and training.

The panel on food needs emphasized India's fast-growing food requirements and calculated the country's total food needs by the end of 1981. It suggested stepping up the production of pulses, soybeans, milk, poultry, and other animal products to fill the gap between the anticipated availability and the required levels of protein.

Stressing the need for the diversification of high-yielding crop varieties, the panel on food production recommended that multiple cropping for intensive cultivation in irrigated areas be undertaken on a priority basis.

Another interesting proposal came from the panel on distribution, marketing, and processing. That panel suggested that minimum prices for principal commodities be announced well before the planting season. To prevent excessive fluctuations in supplies and prices from one season to another, the panel suggested that India should build up buffer stocks of

rice, wheat, peanut oil, cotton, jute, and gur (noncentrifugal brown raw sugar made on farms and in the villages).

Recommendations of the Congress

While generally endorsing the views expressed by the various panels, the Congress made several specific recommendations to increase the quantity and quality of food production during the next decade. Important among these are the following:

- The level of protein availability should be raised by increasing the production of pulses, soybeans, milk, poultry, and other animal products—especially swine and fish. Production of fruits and vegetables should be stepped up to increase the availability of other nutrients.

- Minimum-cost diets, taking into account the requirements of balanced nutrition and prevailing market prices, should be developed for various regions and for different seasons of the year. Effective coordination should be established among the various government and voluntary agencies engaged in nutrition programs, and the nutritional fortification program currently applied to wheat should be extended to include rice.

- Efforts to produce high-yielding varieties of foodgrains should be intensified, and the suggestion by the food production panel concerning multiple cropping adopted.

- In order to improve both food production and socio-economic conditions, the development of rain-fed areas (which constitute 80 percent of India's total arable land) should receive urgent attention.

- The expansion of rural electrification should be given high priority.

- India's soil testing facilities should be increased in an effort to find deficiencies in micronutrients.

The Congress also recommended that the existing restrictions on inter-State trade should be removed to the greatest extent possible. However, it was not able to reach a consensus on the nature and timing of announcements of support and procurement prices. While some delegates thought these prices should be announced at sowing time others felt the announcement should be made earlier.

The recommendations of the Congress have provided guidelines for the Indian participants in the Second World Food Congress.

—Based on dispatch from GUY L. HAVILAND
Assistant U.S. Agricultural Attaché, New Delhi

USDA Issues Report on Licensed Dairy Imports

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a preliminary report May 20, on imports of cheese and other dairy products against licenses under Import Regulation 1, Revision 5, as amended, for the period ending December 31, 1969.

Import quotas and import licensing requirement on certain dairy products are in force under the authority of Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended, to prevent material interference with the Department's dairy price support program.

In September 1968 import quotas were added under the emergency provisions of Section 22 for processed Edam and Gouda cheese, and Emmenthaler, Gruyere-process and "other" cheese having an f.o.b. country-of-origin price of under 47 cents per pound. These became permanent and subject to import licensing requirements in January 1969.

At the same time, quotas were instituted for Italian-type cheese not in original loaves and made from cow's milk; "other" cheese, nsfp (not specifically mentioned in the Tariff

UNITED STATES: IMPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS UNDER IMPORT LICENSE JANUARY 1, 1969, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1969¹

Country of origin	American cheese other than cheddar	Cheddar cheese ²	Italian-type cheese in original loaves	Other Italian-type cheese	Edam and Gouda cheese	Processed Edam and Gouda cheese	Blue-mold cheese ²
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Argentina	—	—	6,568,530	752,530	3,924	—	—
Australia	1,583,520	1,612,423	—	4,834	—	—	—
Austria	15,731	12,280	—	—	—	50,530	—
Belgium	272,565	177,341	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	272,937	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark	46,635	39,791	—	—	211,298	1,337,235	4,516,910
Finland	—	—	—	—	79,793	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,710
Ireland	514,609	504,198	—	—	—	220,237	—
Italy	—	—	3,314,228	8,967	—	—	83,214
Netherlands	—	—	—	—	8,313,660	167,303	—
New Zealand	3,276,360	5,332,910	—	—	—	—	—
Norway	—	—	—	—	11,078	287,418	57,052
Portugal	—	—	—	—	4,673	—	—
Sweden	120,874	117,090	—	—	190,612	—	9,079
United Kingdom	—	16,053	—	—	—	—	—
West Germany	9,699	24,978	—	—	—	343,496	—
Total	5,834,993	8,110,001	9,882,758	³ 766,331	8,815,038	2,406,219	4,670,965
Quota	6,096,000	8,812,500	11,500,100	1,494,000	9,200,400	3,151,000	5,016,999

	Emmenthaler cheese	Gruyere process cheese	"Other" cheese nsfp ⁴	Butter	Dried skim milk	Dried butter-milk	Chocolate crumb
Australia	—	—	—	—	1,322,888	—	—
Austria	908,641	31,220	88,326	—	—	—	—
Belgium	—	—	189,882	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	179,461	—	410,250	40,000	—
Denmark	427,225	61,882	8,266,827	175,989	—	—	—
Finland	1,811,150	1,484,373	1,096,793	—	—	—	—
France	—	2,385	67,490	—	—	—	—
Hungary	13,228	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iceland	—	—	559,692	—	—	—	—
Ireland	—	62,937	129,153	—	—	—	3,460,200
Israel	—	317	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	—	—	4,029	149,967	—	—	—
New Zealand	—	—	⁵ 3,702,820	317,184	—	101,416	—
Norway	281,797	—	187,133	—	—	—	—
Poland	—	—	2,042,710	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	—	1,524,289	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	195,843	7,220	3,688	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom	—	3,078	196,222	—	—	—	—
West Germany	39,620	1,090,816	756,900	—	—	—	—
Total	3,677,504	2,744,228	18,995,415	643,140	1,733,138	141,416	⁶ 3,460,200
Quota	4,271,000	3,289,000	25,001,000	707,000	1,807,000	496,000	17,000,000

¹ Preliminary; subject to revision. ² Includes processed cheese. ³ Imports under license July-Dec. only; does not include 747,000 lb. imported under Customs supervision Jan.-June. ⁴ Not separately provided for. ⁵ Imports under license July-Dec. only; does not include 3,750,000 lb. from New Zealand imported under Customs supervision Jan.-June. ⁶ Imports under license July-Dec. only; does not include 13,247,700 lb. imported under Customs supervision Jan.-June.

Schedules) from New Zealand; and milk chocolate crumb, a product used in chocolate manufacture. However, licensing requirements for these three new quotas did not become effective until July 1, 1969. Therefore, the licensed import data given in the table for these commodities exclude imports during the January-June period when these quotas were administered by the Bureau of Customs on a first-come, first-served basis.

The annual quota for each type of cheese and other dairy product and the preliminary record, by countries, of imports against licenses issued during the quota year ending December 31, 1969, are shown in the accompanying table.

No requests from eligible applicants were received for licenses to import the 500-pound dried cream quota and no authorizations were made against the quota.

During the 1969 quota year, many shipments, particularly of Italian-type cheeses, were rejected for pesticide content by the Food and Drug Administration, a fact which resulted in reduced license usage. Since rejected importations must be re-exported, they are not chargeable to the quota. Also, 1969 was the first quota year for many quota commodities, and certain adjustments had to be made as importers adapted to the licensing system. Furthermore, year-end shipping difficulties delayed arrival of several late shipments beyond December 31, 1969, which were then necessarily charged against 1970 quotas.

Several of the dairy quotas are not subject to licensing arrangements, but are administered by the Bureau of Customs

on a first-come, first-served basis. Imports under these quotas in 1969 were as follows:

- Butteroil—the quota of 1,200,000 pounds was filled.
- Frozen cream—the quota of 1,500,000 gallons was filled.
- Articles containing over 5.5 percent but under 45 percent by weight of butterfat (Junex)—the 2,580,000-pound quota was filled.
- Condensed milk in airtight containers—3,591,973 pounds of the 4,074,000-pound quota was filled.
- Other condensed milk—the 5,000-pound quota was not used.
- Evaporated milk in airtight containers — 1,230,968 pounds of the 1,312,000-pound quota were imported.
- Cheddar cheese made from unpasteurized milk and aged not less than 9 months—imports totaled 928,628 pounds of the 1,225,000-pound quota.

For four dairy products not under quotas and being imported in increasing quantities, the U.S. Tariff Commission—at Secretary Hardin's recommendation and on the President's instructions—is currently conducting an investigation into the possible necessity for import controls (see *Foreign Agriculture*, May 25, 1970, p. 12). These products are ice cream; chocolate crumb with a fat content of 5.5 percent or less; animal feed containing milk or milk derivatives; and certain cheese, containing 0.5 percent or less by weight of butterfat. The Commission has announced a public hearing in connection with this investigation, beginning July 7. Persons wishing to appear at the hearing should inform the Commission by June 26.

Belgrade Boosts Meat, Bread Prices

The Belgrade City Assembly recently approved an increase in the retail prices of meat and bread in the City's market. The new retail prices of meat, which are from 8 to 27 percent above the previous prices, went into effect May 5; the increased bread prices became effective June 1.

Decreased meat production in 1969, combined with increased exports, resulted in a lessened total meat supply and higher consumer prices during the past 12 months. The first increase in meat prices (of about 24 percent) was approved in June 1969 for beef, young beef, and veal. Another increase was announced in the fall of 1969, raising retail prices from 15 to 20 percent depending on the type and quality of the meat purchased. The most recent increase—in May of this year—raised the average retail price of beef by 17 percent and the price of young beef by 18.5 percent; the price of veal went up by 27 percent. Average consumer prices for pork, lamb, mutton, and chicken show increases of 10 percent, 18.7 percents, 20 percent, and 8 percent, respectively.

Bread prices increased by 15 percent for white bread; the rises were less for semiwhite and black bread: 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

Bread prices had been unchanged since July 1965. During that time some production costs increased. Yeast, for example, went up 23 percent; other costs such as salt, fuel, and transportation went up 48 percent, 52 percent, and 51 percent, respectively. Because of these increased production costs and the rigidity of bread prices, both under government control, the selling price left little profit for the bakery. In the fall of 1969, the Business Association of Bakeries submitted a proposal for new, increased prices of bread. This proposal was

approved by the recent announcement of the Belgrade City Assembly and the increased bread prices result.

Yugoslavia Funds Farm Program

The Yugoslav Government has allocated \$475,200 for the improvement of agriculture and forestry in 1970. The funds, to be used under the direction of the Federal Secretariat for Economy, will be applied to the improvement of crop and livestock production, and to upgrade forestry methods by the application of modern scientific, technical, and technological methods. In addition, a significant portion of the funds is earmarked for education, international exchange of agricultural experts, as well as for other uses.

In the area of crop production, \$14,400 will be used to increase wheat production in cooperation with private farmers. About the same amount is projected to be used for increasing corn yields, also in cooperation with private farmers. A total amount of \$3,600 will be used for work connected with the introduction of high-yielding wheat varieties which give a better flour; \$36,000 will be spent for bringing into production new hybrid corn varieties. Money is also being spent for the introduction of new varieties of barley (\$12,000), tobacco (\$7,200), and sunflower seed and potatoes (\$12,000). An allocation of \$16,800 is intended to finance the improvement of forage production in mountainous areas.

About \$28,800 will be used to finance the production of early (spring) and late (fall) varieties of vegetables using polyethylene material in Macedonia and Dalmatia (Croatia). New tomato-growing methods are being financed in Istra.

—Both articles based on despatches from FRANK W. EHMAN
U.S. Agricultural Attaché, Belgrade

Taiwan Plans Increased Swine Production

By NORMAN J. PETTIPAW
U.S. Agricultural Attaché, Taipei

Taiwan's growing swine industry has received steady impetus from several innovative programs. The most recent of these is the activity of the Swine Science Research Institute, established in February. It is expected to mark the beginning of a major rise in Taiwan's swine production that should increase imports of feedgrains and soybeans.

Hogs have long been vital to Taiwan's small, intensive farms, ranking second to rice in value of production. Because of dietary preferences, they supply the bulk of the animal protein for Taiwan's population. Hog manure also is essential, since Taiwanese farmers produce up to four crops a year on the same land. Many farmers view hogs as a kind of savings to be used for their manure for a while and then to be slaughtered when cash is needed.

Initial changes

The first major change in swine production began in 1953 when the Taiwan Sugar Corporation (TSC), a large government-owned industry, founded the Farm Animals Breeding Station. Located in northwest Taiwan, the station was established to supply improved breeding stock for 16 TSC propagation and fattening farms, which in turn utilize sugar byproducts and produce manure for TSC's sugarcane plantations. This program has been built up to the present levels of 4,000 breeding sows (with an annual production of 60,000 feeder pigs) at the Breeding Station and 200,000 market hogs a year on the propagation farms. The goal for 1971 is 310,000 head of hogs from these farms. Improved piglets also are produced for distribution to small, private sugarcane farmers, to encourage them in hog production and to facilitate the use of manure on their sugarcane plots.

Research activities at the TSC Breeding Station have resulted in the widespread use throughout Taiwan of faster growing three-way-cross pigs, breeding the native Taoyuan with improved Berkshire, Yorkshire, Landrace, Duroc, and Minnesota 2. The average number of litters per sow has increased over the past 10 years from 1.64 to 1.95 per year, with an average weaning litter size of over nine.

To increase feeding efficiency and acquire the latest feed technology, TSC has established a joint venture with an American feed company to produce mixed feeds on a larger, more economical scale. The first feedmill built under this program, to be located in the port of Kaohsiung, will have an annual capacity of 125,000 metric tons.

Program for small farms

In 1963, the Chinese and American Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction (JCRR) and Taiwan's Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry initiated the Swine Production Program to demonstrate how modern swine technology could be used on Taiwan's small farms. Major parts of the program are these: The introduction of artificial insemination and three-way crosses for rapid maturity and improved carcass quality; the establishment of farmers' cooperative feedmills to produce concentrates to be mixed with farm-grown feeds for balanced rations; a production credit program; an insurance program; disease control and compulsory vaccination against

hog cholera; optimum use of manure for soil improvement and generation of methane gas from manure for farm use; encouragement of seasonal sweetpotato ensilaging; improved building design; cooperative hog marketing systems; and construction of modern slaughterhouses.

Recent growth

As a result of the JCRR and TSC programs, hog slaughter on Taiwan has increased from a post-World War II low of 300,000 head to the present level of 3.6 million head. Increased hog slaughter has come through larger, more frequent, and hardier litters a year; actual hog numbers at year end have not increased for the past 12 years. The Chinese Government plans to increase hog slaughter to a level of 5.3 million head by 1974. Over the longer term, it wants to nearly double hog numbers by 1978, to 6-7 million head. It would like to raise per capita pork consumption from the present level of 40 pounds a year to about 50 pounds, for a population increasing at more than 2 percent a year. It would also like to expand pork and live hog exports, which now amount to about US\$3 million a year.

The recently established Swine Science Research Institute will be a 5-year, \$2.3-million project jointly funded by the Government of China and the United Nations Development Program. The first 3 years will be devoted to setting up the research foundation and training Chinese swine specialists, while the last 2 years will stress research and technical assistance. Swine research scientists from other countries will be invited to work on problems such as improvement of hog breeds, swine nutrition, feed analysis, hog diseases, hog shipping and marketing, meat analysis, farm management, and packingplant management and carcass inspection.

The Chinese Government also plans to cooperate with the University of Hawaii in a 5-year program of research on swine breeding. Eventually, a computer is to be linked to the TSC hog farms complex to monitor records on 30,000 breeding stock and 500,000 progeny a year and collect information on reproductive and productive traits of economic importance. The information collected under the program, probably the first of its kind in the world, will contribute to our knowledge of swine breeding and production.

Hardy, fast-growing three-way-cross pigs are being bred as part of Taiwan's program to increase hog production.



New Agricultural Policy Set for Taiwan

The island of Taiwan, where agricultural production has enjoyed substantial growth for many years, is now facing new challenges to rural progress—largely brought about by rapid industrialization and a population shift to the growing urban areas.

In response to the changing farm conditions, the caucus of the Kuomintang (KMT) ruling party of the Republic of China—headed by President Chiang Kai-shek—has adopted a new agricultural policy which is designed to stimulate Taiwan's rural economy. Set forth as a 10-point program, the policy includes such far-reaching proposals as a joint cultivation system, a program setting minimum farm sizes, and the revision of agricultural financing. A first step already taken to implement the program is the reduction of fertilizer prices.

The KMT program calls for the following:

- Strengthening the agricultural production structure.
- Expanding the operational scope of farms.
- Promoting the use of farm machinery.
- Improving the technology of agricultural production.
- Lowering the price of fertilizer.
- Reducing the farmers' financial burden.
- Regulating the price of agricultural commodities.
- Improving agricultural financing and investment.
- Strengthening farmers' organizations.
- Bettering rural community conditions.

New goals to aid production

The first proposal, which would strengthen the agricultural production structure, is basic to the entire new policy. It would be accomplished by encouraging farmers to shift from rice production to the production of more profitable crops, such as fruits and vegetables; by expanding livestock production; and by increasing foreign markets through improving processing techniques and maintaining higher product quality.

The new program also seeks to alleviate many of the problems brought about by the small size of Taiwan's farms—many of which are less than 2 acres in area. The KMT pro-

posal forbids further division of farms and encourages the inheritance of farms as units to prevent further fragmentation. Land consolidation would be accelerated to improve the irrigation, drainage, and access systems of present farms; and joint cultivation and cooperative purchasing of farm machinery would be promoted.

Price reductions, as well as improved machinery and machine maintenance services, would encourage the mechanization of much of the farming now done by hand or with draft animals. At present, only about 25,000 power tillers are in operation on Taiwan's farms, averaging about one for every 25 farmers. While some rice transplanting machines are also in operation, technological improvements are needed before these machines come into widespread use.

Improved agricultural education systems and extension services are also included in the KMT policy. Long-term agricultural research programs are to be strengthened to train more talent and to increase research funds and equipment. Practical case research programs are emphasized.

The program calls for an overall study of the farm tax structure in Taiwan and a revision of agricultural financing and investment. An agricultural financing institution would be established to plan the overall supply of farm capital and increase capital efficiency. In this way, farm loans could be improved and simplified and interest rates could be adjusted when necessary. The government would increase the availability of funds for long-term, low-interest loans.

The prices of agricultural commodities are to be maintained at a reasonable level, and higher levels of production will be promoted. To increase farmers' profits and to encourage the production of export items, a stabilization fund would be established to regulate the incomes of farmers growing important export crops. The prices of imported farm products would also be maintained at a reasonable level under the KMT program.

The final two KMT proposals are directed at bettering the welfare of farm families. This would be accomplished by

A typical farm of Taiwan, with farmer inspecting his recently planted rice crop.



strengthening farmers' organizations and cooperatives and by improving rural facilities such as housing, transportation, and sanitation.

Progress and problems

The necessity for a new agricultural program for Taiwan has been brought about by the decreasing profitability of farming in recent years. Although Taiwan's total agricultural production increased by an annual average of 5 percent from 1961 to 1968, there has been a growing disparity between per capita agricultural and nonagricultural incomes. Since 1950, farm population has increased by 50 percent on a fixed amount of land. The average farm size is now only 2.5 acres, while 67 percent of Taiwan's farms are less than 2.5 acres and 38 percent are less than 1.25 acres in size.

The small farm size, as well as a lack of cash and high interest rates, discourages many farmers from purchasing modern machinery. This situation has been aggravated in recent years by the shortage of farm labor resulting from the shift of employment from agriculture to industry.

At present, it is difficult to estimate the extent of these problems. Although Taiwan's total agricultural output declined by 0.2 percent in 1969 and crop production dropped for the first time since 1963, heavy typhoon damage was a significant factor.

The KMT program, designed to cope with the changing rural conditions, is basically a supplement which expands and

clarifies the agricultural guidelines set forth by the Government of the Republic of China last November. That broad, 14-point program was developed to increase agricultural production, improve marketing efficiency, raise farm incomes, and protect watersheds and prevent floods.

Fertilizer prices cut

The first step taken to implement the new agricultural policy is the reduction of fertilizer prices recently announced by the Chinese Government. Substantial reductions have been made in prices under the rice-fertilizer barter system, as well as for cash purchases.

Before the price reductions, Taiwan's farmers were burdened with extremely high fertilizer prices. The ex-factory price for urea was about 40 percent higher than the CIF price for imported urea, and distribution costs were about 25 percent of the factory price. The cost of urea has now been reduced by almost 20 percent under the rice-fertilizer barter system (which accounts for about 90 percent of all fertilizer distributed) and by 13 percent for cash purchases.

Prices for ammonium sulfate, nitrochalk, calcium sulfate, calcium superphosphate, and potassium chloride have also been reduced substantially. Total savings in fertilizer costs to Taiwan's farmers during 1970 alone are expected to amount to about US\$11 million.

—Based on dispatches from NORMAN J. PETTIPAW
U.S. Agricultural Attaché, Taipei

Rising Prices and Demand for Philippine Abaca

The downward trend of Philippine abaca production during the past several years was slowed in 1969 and could be reversed in 1970 because of greater domestic use and higher prices. Although the outlook for production of high-grade machine-cleaned fibers is discouraging, the growing outturn of lower grade fiber and abaca pulp may offset this loss.

Prices in 1969 were substantially higher than in 1968, and local demand from the Philippines' three pulp and paper mills boosted use of abaca. Demand and prices are expected to continue strong, at least during the first half of this year.

Production and utilization

Production of abaca fiber in 1969, estimated at the equivalent of 581,000 bales, declined only 4 percent from 1968, compared with a 14-percent drop from 1967 to 1968.

In both southern Luzon and southern Mindanao, baled fiber production decreased—down 12 percent in southern Luzon to 157,000 bales and down 9 percent in southern Mindanao to 140,000 bales. Southern Luzon's decrease was due mainly to shifting of production to loose fiber for pulp and paper manufacturing; southern Mindanao's, to continued plantings of bananas and coconuts on former abaca areas.

Baled fiber production in the Leyte and Samar area, on the other hand, was up to 154,000 bales—13 percent above the previous year—because of labor problems which reduced use of loose fiber by the cordage manufacturing industry.

It is believed that the pronounced downtrend of the past few years will be slowed by the current strong demand and favorable prices. The total amount of land planted to abaca by mid-1969, is estimated at 457,000 acres, about 12,000 acres less than in the same period in 1968.

Although use of abaca for cordage continued to decline in 1969 because of competition from synthetic fibers, domestic manufacture of rugs and mats made of abaca and use of pulp abaca for making specialty paper increased. This use of abaca for paper, rugs, and mats is believed to have been more than enough to offset the decline in cordage use; therefore, domestic use of abaca in 1969 is estimated at the equivalent of 160,000 bales, or 2.5 percent greater than in 1968.

The downward trend of abaca exports during the past 6 years continued in 1969 when shipments totaled 486,000 bales—11,500 bales, or 2 percent, below 1968. Philippine abaca exports have been declining because abaca prices have been falling in the United States—one of the largest importers of abaca—and in Europe.

Philippine stocks of abaca fiber at the end of 1969 were the lowest in 15 years.

Outlook

The establishment of pulp and paper plants has created new hope in the Philippine abaca industry. Two of the country's three plants began operating in 1968, and a fourth is being established.

Strong demand and good prices should provide an incentive for growers to strip more abaca. If weather and prices continue to be favorable, abaca production this year is likely to increase for the first time in many years.

The outlook for exports, however, is not as favorable. Balings for export, particularly of the high-grade spindle-stripped fiber, are not expected to show gain.

—Based on dispatch from FRED W. TRAEGER
U.S. Agricultural Attaché, Manila

The uncertain situation for both Philippine copra exporters and other-country copra importers has been cleared by the new Philippine export tax system on coconut products. The near future for copra sales is encouraging.

Philippine Copra Sales About to Resume

Philippine copra sales, which have been at a virtual standstill since February 1970, are expected to resume as a result of a new system of export taxes which was signed into law by President Marcos the first week in May. The Philippines are the largest suppliers of copra—the dried form of coconut meat which is at present the world's fifth ranking source of vegetable oils.

The new export tax system, referred to as the stabilization export tax, provides for a 10-percent tax on copra and an 8-percent tax on coconut oil and meal. It replaces the previous "differential currency devaluation" system, which strongly favored exports of oil and cake, rather than the raw material, copra.

Under the differential devaluation system, which the Philippine Government adopted in February, copra was sold mainly at the predevaluation rate rather than the new, floating, lower exchange rates. Coconut products, such as oil and cake and meal, however, were sold at the more attractive new rates.

This meant that the chief buyers of Philippine copra—the United States and Europe's Common Market countries—suddenly found copra imports uneconomic in comparison to imports of coconut oil, cake, and meal. The United States bought 48 percent of registered Philippine copra exports in 1969, and the EC took 44 percent.

Repercussions

The copra-crushing industries in the Common Market and the United States faced sharp curtailment of their operations because of the differential Philippine currency devaluations that made copra exports uneconomic.

Individually, many copra-crushing plants in the Common Market countries would have switched from using copra as a raw material to other vegetable oil-bearing materials such as palm kernels, peanuts, sunflowerseed, and rapeseed. Plants in the United States would have found it difficult to continue to operate once reserve supplies were exhausted.

Because the Philippines supplies more than half of world coconut-product exports each year, the sudden drop in its copra exports could not have been counterbalanced by replacements from other sources. Although sales of copra from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Papua have increased in recent years, shipments are still small in comparison to those from the Philippines.

Philippine coconut-product exports to the Common Market would have fallen under a sort of double jeopardy—discouragement of copra exports by the Philippine Government's differential devaluation regulations and discouragement of EC imports of coconut oil by EC import taxes. In 1969 EC countries took virtually all of Philippine copra cake and meal exports and 25 percent of Philippine coconut oil exports.

Background

In late 1969 Philippine policy planners prepared a plan (to be included in the administration's new 5-year development

program) for industrializing the country's coconut industry. The objective of the plan was to change the Philippines from an exporter of raw coconut materials into a supplier of finished products, thus increasing foreign exchange earnings and the role of the Philippine processing industry. Philippine exports of coconut oil, copra cake, and desiccated coconut would be expected to increase as exports of copra declined.

Coconut planning

One part of making the plan work is building new coconut oil mills in various parts of the country, providing modern copra plants, establishing bonded warehouses, installing small-scale industries in coconut-producing areas, and improving and expanding port facilities. Philippine planners estimate an investment of US\$17 million in such developments for the 5-year period 1970-74.

The differential devaluation in early 1970 initiated by the Philippine Government was partly intended to be a supporting move to encourage coconut oil and meal exports rather than copra sales.

The versatile coconut

Coconut products have a variety of uses. Refined, edible oil is used directly for cooking in many Asian countries. In Western countries it is used chiefly by bakers and confectioners to make specialty products. Unrefined, inedible coconut oil is used in the manufacture of soaps, detergents, cosmetics, and a wide variety of industrial products (lubricants, gasoline additives, varnishes, and so on). Copra cake and copra meal (byproducts of crushing copra for oil) are chiefly fed to dairy cattle. For example, several copra-crushing plants on the west coast of the United States supply cake and meal to the local dairy industry. Desiccated coconut (shredded, specially dried coconut meat) is used by bakers, confectioners, and housewives in making candies, pastries, and desserts.

Outlook

With the new stabilization export tax replacing the differential currency devaluation, there should be a gradual shift in exports from copra to oil and meal. This will probably accelerate over the long term despite recovery in coconut production. This reflects the probable increases in construction of processing facilities and the economy of shipping coconut oil and meal rather than copra.

The number of trees planted and those in bearing are believed to have increased considerably in recent years. Present estimates are that 1970 coconut production in the Philippines could increase by roughly 10 percent from the reduced 1969 output—partly because of improved weather.

However, it should be noted that much of the new coconut acreage is on less productive land than the old acreage and that output from some of the more fertile, but older, coconut areas is declining because of the advanced age of the trees.

The Rise and Fall of Covent Garden Largest Vendor of Fruits

At the 300th anniversary of Covent Garden Market, Colin Paul tells Prince Philip about the varieties of U.S. apples and pears he and John Schooley, representatives for the Northwest Horticultural Council, set up on an antique barrow cart.



Although the sounds, smells, and sights of the Covent Garden Market have altered little over the years, there have been small changes. Porters now balance their baskets on barrows (lower right) rather than on their heads as they did until around 1930 (photo from Fruit Trades' Journal); and flowers are now sold in the Flower Market (lower left) not in Floral Hall.



Market—300 Years as England's Vegetables, and Flowers

Eliza Doolittle was there, vending her "rowses" and slaughtering the English language; Nell Gwynn too was back in her old haunt with a basket of oranges. These and many more of the old ghosts were savoring the distinctive sounds and smells of London's colorful Covent Garden Market on May 9, as the Market—England's largest for domestic and imported fruits, vegetables, and flowers—celebrated its tercentenary with a gala birthday party.

Some 50,000 Londoners and foreign visitors jammed the narrow streets and crowded halls of the 5½ acre market area admiring the decorative displays of both domestic and imported fruits and vegetables, the fragrant flowers, and the congenial tradespeople—many of them attired in costumes reminiscent of those worn in earlier days.

There was more than a touch of nostalgia, for the celebration commemorated not only the rise but also the fall of the ancient Market. Long criticized for its narrow streets, traffic congestion, limited selling space, and lack of mechanical handling facilities, the Market will move within a few years—probably in 1973—to a site at Nine Elms, 2½ miles from Covent Garden.

Prince Philip, the royal representative at the event, pushed a button triggering a charge which demolished the remaining buildings at Nine Elms, and thus cleared the site for the construction of the new market.

The Covent Garden area, located in the heart of London and roughly bounded by The Strand, High Holborn, Charing Cross Road, and New Oxford Street, has a history as colorful as the fruit in the market. The market shares what used to be a piazza with other London landmarks. These include two famous theatres, The Drury Lane, and The Royal Opera House; and The Bow Street Magistrates Court where the country's first police force—called "Bow Street Runners," or "Robin Redbreasts"—tried to stay the rogues' progress in the area. Another neighbor is St. Paul's, "the actor's church" built in 1633 by Inigo Jones, a leading architect of the day, and termed by him "the handsomest barn in England," since he had been instructed by the third Earl of Bedford to build a church "not much bigger than a barn."

There are also a number of historical coffee houses and pubs tucked away in the lanes of Covent Garden. They have been frequented by such literary lights as

Dryden, Pepys, Dr. Johnson, Charles Dickens, and of course the traders of the market who would often seal a deal over a pint.

The "jewell" of London

The Covent Garden area actually was at one time a convent garden for the abbey of Westminster Church. Sometime over the years the "n" disappeared down a cockney throat and any traces of piety also fled from the convent garden. In 1539 the monastery was dissolved and the lands were granted to the Earl of Somerset who unfortunately lost both the garden and his head at the Tower of London. In 1552 the area was given to John Russell, the first Earl of Bedford and remained in that family until the 20th century. Today it is owned by the Covent Garden Market Authority.

The third Earl of Bedford was so pleased with St. Paul's Church that he commissioned Inigo Jones to build him a piazza modeled after the great square which many Italians consider their living rooms. Finished in 1635, the piazza was bordered on three sides by arcaded walks linking together St. Paul's and rows of grand houses, and on the fourth side by the garden of the Bedford Mansion. When the grand piazza was completed the Earl noted in his commonplace book "London the Ring, Covent Garden the Jewell of that Ring".

But the "jewell," elegant for a time, soon became tarnished as its aristocratic

Covent Garden in the 1600's when local growers first began to use the area as a market. (Photo from Fruit Trades' Journal.)



residents moved westward and left the area to more earthy occupants. The name Covent Garden became associated with gin shops, rowdy coffee houses, and unsavory characters. And amid all the havoc the beginnings of a market took form.

On May 9, 1670, King Charles II granted the fifth Earl of Bedford a license to hold a market for fruit, flowers, and vegetables on weekdays in the Covent Garden.

For years local growers had marketed their produce in the piazza, and with the influx of growers from farflung countries who had responded to appeals to feed the stricken populace during the plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of 1666, there was a need to regulate the activities in the market. Stalls soon filled the piazza and by the end of the 18th century it was the largest market in England for herbs, fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

In the 19th century the physical market began to expand. In 1830 the first covered hall "The Dedicated Market," was completed. In 1860, Floral Hall, designed by Paxton (who was also responsible for the Crystal Palace), was built to accommodate the growing flower trade. But it soon became apparent that the glass-domed building was unsuitable for flowers and it was not long before the traders who specialized in imported fruits took over the building. The name Floral Hall remains to this day, although not a single flower may be found there.

Flowers are sold in the Flower Market which was erected in 1870. Today there are some 466 flower stands in the building, but the demand is so strong in flower-conscious London that the trade has spilled over into adjacent shops. The so-called "Tin Market" was put under cover in 1890; and the final development, the "Jubilee Market," named in honor of the historic anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria, was built in 1894.

The actual area associated with the market has expanded from the original nucleus of 5½ acres to cover some 30 acres and includes parking areas and buildings used for storage and offices.

Today, with the exception of a few changes—porters now balance baskets in barrows rather than on their heads—the market functions much as it did at the turn of the century. A typical market day begins in the wee hours as produce-laden trucks arrive from many points—the railroad station, the port of London, and smaller ports such as Dover, Shoreham, and Sheerness, and also the English countryside. Some 4,000 vehicles a day

jam the narrow streets of the market, causing the congestion which is one of the main reasons for the move to the site at Nine Elms.

Still handling a king-size trade

Despite the growth of direct sales of imported horticultural products to supermarkets, and to certain markets in the country, the London market is still thriving. Latest available figures show that Covent Garden traders handle 33 percent of the fruit imported into the United Kingdom, 31 percent of the vegetables, and 8 percent of the potatoes. On the domestic front 15 percent of the home-grown fruit, 16 percent of the vegetables, and 2 percent of the potatoes pass through the market.

Customers continue to be mainly wholesalers who transport the produce into the countryside and to a smaller extent the retailers of the greater London area.

Not only the streets are congested, the interiors of the market halls resound with cries of "mind your backs" as porters pushing heavy loads attempt to squeeze past buyers and sellers deep in discussion over the price of cabbages or kumquats. Estimates as to how many people connected with the trade actually work in the market range between 3,000 and 4,000. These include growers, wholesalers, buyers, brokerage and commission agents for major importing and distributing groups, and clerks and porters.

The market reaches its peak between 6 and 8 A.M. when the rest of London is just beginning to stir. A midday visitor would find the halls deserted—as they will be permanently when the market moves to Nine Elms.

The move to Nine Elms

For the last 100 years there have been criticisms of the market and proposals to move it farther from the center of London. After much consideration the site at Nine Elms, Battersea, adjacent to both a railhead and the Thames, was purchased

in the last part of the spring of 1969.

The new market, which should be ready for occupancy by 1973, will be divided into three areas: 45 acres for the main fruit and vegetable market; 7 acres for an entrance and auxiliary fruit and vegetable market; and 16 acres for the flower market and administrative building which will house offices of the many organizations connected with the market. The three areas will be linked together by tunnels for both vehicles and pedestrians to assure easy passage from one market to the next.

Much care has gone into planning the new market. Determined to make the Nine Elms Market a model one, the Covent Garden Market Authority has consulted with many experts. William Crow, Director of USDA's Market Transportation and Facilities Research Division (which has designed some 65 U.S. markets), advised the Authority on the development of facilities to go on the site—including everything from height of ceilings to width of streets. Members of the Authority toured several large U.S. markets including those in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. They studied the U.S. facilities in action and have incorporated many of their handling techniques and labor-saving devices into plans for the Nine Elms market.

The traders of the Covent Garden Market have been polled for their preferences in areas ranging from storage to temperature. Flower sellers have opted for a single large hall in which to carry on their trade, while fruit and vegetable dealers unanimously agreed on separate units rather than a single hall. Increased efficiency, reduced operating costs, and greater convenience are just a few of the bonuses the spacious Nine Elms Market will offer to the horticultural trade.

However, 300 years of tradition do not die easily and there will be many a ghost left behind when it is "Time, Gentlemen, Time" for the Covent Garden Market to close its marketing day for the last time.

—A. L. B.

Congestion is one of the main reasons for the move to Nine Elms.



CROPS AND MARKETS SHORTS

U.S. Tobacco Exports in April

U.S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in April 1970 totaled 38.3 million pounds, slightly below the 39.6 million pounds exported in April 1969. Reductions were recorded in most export categories with the exception of dark-fired, Black Fat, cigar binder, and other. The value of the tobacco products exported in April 1970 was up to \$14.4 million from \$9.5 million in the same month a year ago.

For the 4-month period (January-April 1970) exports totaled 128.1 million pounds, more than one-third above the 94.4 million pounds exported during the same period last year. Exports were low during the first 2 months of calendar year 1969 as a result of the U.S. dock strike. Increases were recorded in all categories with the exception of burley, Virginia fire-cured, Green River, cigar wrapper, and cigar filler.

U.S. EXPORTS OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO [Export weight]

Kind	April		January-April		Change from 1969
	1969	1970	1969	1970	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	
Flue-cured	25,082	24,706	66,122	88,071	+33.2
Burley	5,501	2,970	11,232	10,741	-4.4
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn. ...	2,833	2,924	4,870	5,695	+16.9
Va. fire-cured ¹	265	88	1,121	782	-30.2
Maryland	1,434	920	1,170	3,872	+118.8
Green River	250	—	301	163	-45.8
One Sucker	52	44	71	173	+143.7
Black Fat	83	176	182	878	+382.4
Cigar wrapper	641	312	883	493	-44.2
Cigar binder	7	30	56	84	+50.0
Cigar filler	61	43	276	143	-48.2
Other	3,377	6,061	7,480	16,999	+127.3
Total	39,586	38,274	94,364	128,094	+35.7
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Per cent
Declared value	34.6	31.5	84.6	115.7	+36.8

¹ Includes sun-cured.
Bureau of the Census.

U.S. EXPORTS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Kind	April		January-April		Change from 1969
	1969	1970	1969	1970	
					Percent
Cigars and cheroots					
1,000 pieces	5,459	3,093	21,955	18,230	-17.0
Cigaretttes					
1,000 pieces	1,707	2,374	6,073	8,884	+46.3
Chewing and snuff					
1,000 pounds	3	3	10	25	+150.0
Smoking tobacco in pkgs.					
1,000 pounds	117	51	329	310	-5.8
Smoking tobacco in bulk					
1,000 pounds	410	1,268	2,654	5,162	+94.5
Total declared value					
Million dollars	9.5	14.4	35.0	54.2	+54.9

Bureau of the Census.

Exports of manufactured tobacco products totaled \$54.2 million during the January-April 1970 period compared with \$35.0 million during the same 4 months a year ago.

U.S. Cotton Exports in April

Exports of U.S. cotton in the first 9 months (Aug.-Apr.) of the 1969-70 season amounted to 2,014,000 running bales,

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS BY DESTINATION [Running bales]

Destination	Year beginning August 1				
	Average			Aug.-Apr.	
	1960-64	1967	1968	1968	1969
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	23	1	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg ...	121	45	30	20	16
Denmark	14	10	1	1	(¹)
Finland	17	11	3	3	6
France	319	148	88	68	27
Germany, West	269	100	31	19	23
Italy	345	253	62	48	40
Netherlands	110	36	19	14	15
Norway	13	7	5	4	1
Poland	125	77	106	106	51
Portugal	21	9	8	6	2
Romania	2	0	0	0	46
Spain	74	7	5	4	3
Sweden	81	75	51	39	34
Switzerland	74	60	32	24	13
United Kingdom	244	125	48	35	30
Yugoslavia	112	67	54	15	0
Other Europe	15	24	7	8	2
Total Europe	1,979	1,055	550	414	309
Algeria	9	13	27	23	10
Australia	61	17	0	0	(¹)
Bolivia	7	0	0	0	0
Canada	353	142	108	80	135
Chile	18	1	(¹)	(¹)	1
Colombia	3	0	(¹)	(¹)	0
Congo (Kinshasa)	6	13	0	0	0
Ethiopia	9	22	9	8	1
Ghana	1	12	17	12	27
Hong Kong	148	299	194	160	49
India	314	342	174	7	118
Indonesia	40	70	105	62	119
Israel	15	4	1	1	(¹)
Jamaica	4	1	2	1	2
Japan	1,192	1,103	536	404	512
Korea, Republic of	261	351	447	348	323
Morocco	12	35	19	9	16
Pakistan	14	18	1	0	9
Philippines	123	154	119	78	91
South Africa	41	23	9	7	3
Taiwan	209	378	259	179	144
Thailand	34	90	66	51	32
Tunisia	2	14	0	0	5
Uruguay	6	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	8	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Vietnam, South	46	24	62	41	97
Other countries	9	25	26	12	11
Total	4,924	4,206	2,731	1,897	2,014

¹ Less than 500 bales.



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slightly higher than the 1,897,000 bales shipped during the same period in 1968-69. Total 1969-70 cotton exports are now expected to exceed the earlier estimate of 2.5 million bales, but are not likely to quite equal last season's total of 2.75 million bales.

Exports in April 1970 totaled 308,000 bales, compared with 246,000 bales in March. April 1969 exports were 568,000 bales.

Weekly Rotterdam Grain Price Report

Current prices for imported grain at Rotterdam, the Netherlands, compared with a week earlier and a year ago, are as follows:

Item	June 3, 1970	Change from previous week	A year ago
	Dol. per bu.	Cents per bu.	Dol. per bu.
Wheat:			
Canadian No. 2 Manitoba	2.01	+1	1.93
USSR SKS-14	(¹)	(¹)	1.87
Australian Northern Hard	1.75	0	(¹)
U.S. No. 2 Dark Northern			
Spring:			
14 percent	1.91	0	1.86
15 percent	1.99	0	1.88
U.S. No. 2 Hard Winter:			
13.5 percent	1.86	-2	1.88
Argentina	1.81	-1	1.82
U.S. No. 2 Soft Red Winter	1.70	-2	1.71
Feedgrains:			
U.S. No. 3 Yellow corn	1.66	0	1.49
Argentina Plate corn	1.72	-1	1.61
U.S. No. 2 sorghum	1.43	0	1.25
Argentina-Granifero	1.38	-4	1.28
Soybeans:			
U.S. No. 2 Yellow	3.15	+1	2.87

¹ Not quoted.

Note: All quoted c.i.f. Rotterdam for 30- to 60-day delivery.

Japan's Frozen Food Imports Rising

In 1969, Japan's frozen vegetable imports increased to 4,022 metric tons valued at \$1.4 million, which is nearly four times their 1968 level. Principal items imported were sweet corn, green peas, lima beans, asparagus, french fries, and mixed vegetables. All frozen vegetables have an import duty of 10 percent ad valorem.

An article in the *Japan Economic Journal* states that trading companies are contracting with firms in Canada, Taiwan, and Korea for supplies. Thus far, most imports have been handled by Japanese fishing companies.

Ceylon's Tea Outturn Down

Ceylon's tea production during the first quarter of 1970 has totaled 114.9 million pounds, down 7 percent from the corresponding period a year earlier when production amounted to 123.6 million pounds.

Tea exports for the same period also declined. They were 98.6 million pounds, valued at \$39.9 million, compared with first-quarter 1969 shipments of 117.6 million pounds valued at \$48.7 million.

Malagasy Republic's Spice Exports

In 1969 the Malagasy Republic's exports of vanilla beans and black pepper increased; clove exports, however, fell sharply to only a fraction of the record 1968 level.

Vanilla bean exports rose to 2.4 million pounds, up from 2.1 million in 1968; black pepper shipments amounted to a record 7.7 million pounds, a gain of 13 percent over 1968. Clove exports fell to only 2.1 million pounds, down from the record 1968 level of 27.3 million pounds.

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